



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### Aurora new pax cap

**AURORA** Expeditions is introducing new polar passenger numbers ahead of commencing its upcoming Arctic season.

The cruise line will now travel with no more than 130 passengers across its fleet of purpose-built small ships visiting the poles.

This will include *Greg Mortimer*, *Sylvia Earle*, and the recently launched *Douglas Mawson*, sailing in Dec 2025 (CW 03 Apr).

Chief Executive Officer Michael Heath said Aurora wanted to reinforce its commitment to providing the small ship experiences its passengers know it for.

## Eden ready to welcome bigger ships

**EDEN** is sailing toward greater cruise capacity, with the town to enjoy bigger and more frequent ship visits thanks to planning approval from the Government of New South Wales (CW 03 Oct).

On the back of its busiest summer cruise season on record, authorities have given the green light for a modification to the existing Eden Breakwater Wharf Extension, which will unlock access to Eden to larger ships.

The modification will also remove the current visit cap of 60 ships per season.

Vessels up to 370 metres in length will also be able to call at the berth (up from 325 metres), with overnight visits also possible following the extension.

This could see Eden potentially included on *Majestic Princess* and *Ovation of the Seas* itineraries.

The two large ships, which currently homeport in Sydney,

will be accommodated following the modifications.

Minor physical alterations with minimal construction will be required to the wharf ahead of the cruise season.

New South Wales Minister for Transport and Tourism, Jo Haylen, described investing in the state's rural ports as a "no-brainer".

"Eden is already our state's largest regional cruise port – and we're making it even better, lifting the cap on visits and increasing NSW's booming market share of Australia's cruising industry," Minister Haylen said.

"Cruising is one of Eden's biggest economic drivers, so allowing bigger international ships to sail will bring enormous benefits to the region for years to come," Haylen added.

"We want people from all over the world to experience everything our stunning state has

to offer and ensure we all reap the economic rewards."

Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director, Joel Katz, said the modifications highlight the importance of taking a collaborative, long-term approach to developing and supporting cruise tourism.

"The [port upgrades] are a sign of the success Eden has enjoyed through having close partnerships between the local community, local businesses, government, port operators and cruise lines."

"With careful planning and strategic investment in the future, we have the opportunity to deliver long-term benefits in ways that suit local communities and enhance their tourism economy."

Eden has almost 30 cruise ship visits booked for the upcoming summer cruise season, with the first set to be Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder* on 30 Oct. *MS*

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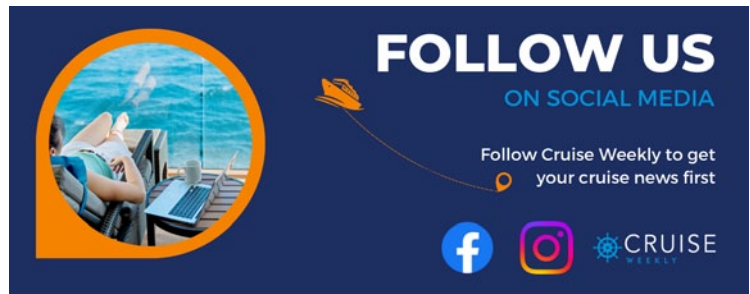


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## Uniworld frocks with Camilla Franks

LUXURY fashion and river cruising combined last night at a glamorous celebration of Uniworld Boutique River Cruises' new partnership with renowned designer, Camilla Franks.

Draped in their favourite Camilla pieces, industry friends took part in the colourful festivities at Sydney's Alpha restaurant, which was also attended by Uniworld CEO Ellen Bettridge, as well as special guest, Consul General of Egypt, Mohammed Khalil.

Before the party began however, Bettridge took to the stage to express her appreciation for the line's collaboration with an Australian fashion icon.

"You create dresses for all sizes, for all people, for all personalities, and you make us feel confident - thank you for that," she said.

Bettridge then officially launched Uniworld's 50-night 'Rivers of the World' experience designed to celebrate the brand's 50th anniversary in 2026.

Kickstarting in Brussels on board Uniworld's brand new super ship, *S.S. Emilie*, which debuts in 2026, the cruise will then head to Amsterdam before heading on an



adventure to Egypt.

"We have that power to bring people to fantastic places, and we need to bring people back to Egypt," Bettridge enthused.

Uniworld will also introduce its first women-only cruise in 2026 along with music-themed cruises on the Danube.

Uniworld Australia Managing Director, Alice Ager, chatted with Camilla Franks on-stage, who shared the life-changing experiences she enjoyed during her time with Uniworld in Egypt, where she was inspired for her new 'House of the Sun' collection.

To celebrate its collaboration

with Franks, Uniworld celebrated the winners of its recent 'Fashion Afloat' incentive which saw some of its top-sellers invited to the stylish launch of the new range.

The lucky winners earned their spot with every new Uniworld booking made by 11 Jul, also winning a shopping expedition to pick up their very own Camilla pieces to wear on the night.

After the formalities, guests were then entertained by Egyptian musicians and had the opportunity to get their hands on Franks' stylish new collection. *JHM* Ellen Bettridge is pictured with Alice Ager and Camilla Franks.



THEY say one man's trash can be another man's treasure, but since when is a luxury superyacht considered trash?

The 81-metre yacht *Alfa Nero* has a new, undisclosed owner who paid \$60 million for the vessel which has been sitting abandoned in Antigua for two years by former owner, Russian oligarch Andrey Guryev.

*Alfa Nero* has sat idle for that period of time after Guryev was sanctioned by the US Treasury for his connections to Russia's Vladimir Putin in the wake of his invasion of Ukraine.

Despite its lack of use, a crew has maintained it at a price tag of \$100,000 per month, with the sale price just half of what Guryev paid for it in 2014.

The yacht features a baby grand piano and a pool that converts into a transparent helipad, with the new owner likely to put the vessel into Europe's charter market.



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